



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **STATEMENT BY MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

### **UT HEADLINE IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPER ON POLICE PAY MISLEADING**

#### ***MAYOR HAS MADE NO DECISIONS ON POLICE, OTHER UNIONS' COMPENSATION***

Because of an unfortunate headline and a misleading series of paragraphs, readers of today's newspaper article on the contract negotiations with the police officers union might be led to believe that I enter those meetings intent on offering police officers a 4% raise. This is not accurate; I have made no such judgment. I have also not made any judgment regarding the compensation of firefighters or deputy city attorneys, two other groups that will soon be at the negotiating table.

I have made it clear that I intend to increase the take home pay of police officers this year. I have offered no specifics for two reasons: 1) we are analyzing the effects of various compensation increases on our budget and pension system. I want city leaders, including myself, to be educated on and fully aware of the ramifications of any increase; and 2) it is my intention to negotiate with the police union in good faith – that means entering the negotiations with an open mind and no pre-determined outcomes.

Lastly, the article is also factually inaccurate in that the unfunded liability for the pension system and retiree healthcare is \$2.5 billion, not \$1 billion. This fact is reason enough to be judicious in any discussions regarding compensation.